

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, NO

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST ELECTORAL LEAGUE BECOMES A PARTY

REF: OSLO A-48

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY: NORWAY'S FAR LEFT SOCIALIST ELECTORAL LEAGUE

(SV) CONVERTED ITSELF INTO A PARTY AT ITS UNIFICATION

CONGRESS IN TRONDHHEIM MARCH 14-16. IT ADOPTED A NEW

NAME AND DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES OR CONSTITUTION.

IT KEPT ITS OLD INITIALS AND SOME ORGANIZATIONAL FEA-

TURES OF AN ELECTORAL COALITION, AS BEFORE, AND BASIC IDEOLOGICAL

DIFFERENCES REMAIN UNRESOLVED. SV IS UNITED, HOWEVER,

IN OPPOSITION TO NATO, COMMON MARKET AND MUCH OF US

FOREIGN POLICY, AS WELL AS ON MOST DOMESTIC ISSUES,

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AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE HARMFUL TO US FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS HERE.

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1. AFTER THREE DAYS OF LONG AND DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION SV'S FOUR COMPONENT PARTIES MEETING IN A SO-CALLED PARTY UNITY CONGRESS FINALLY AGREED ON MARCH 16 ON A COMPROMISE FORMULA TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN THEIR UNITY. CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES WERE REMOVED FROM A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND INCORPORATED IN A SEPARATE CONGRESS STATEMENT WHICH PASSED OVER COMMUNIST (NKP) ABSTENTIONS. THIS STATEMENT CONTAINED CRITICISM OF OPPRESSION IN EAST EUROPE AND USSR, OF SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND OF USE OF POWER TO CRUSH SELF-DETERMINATION, EITHER BY IMPERIALISTS OR IN THE NAME OF SOCIALISM. THE KEY WORD, LENINIS, WAS EXCLUDED FROM THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES OF THE "MARXIST-BASED REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PARTY", BUT MENTION WAS MADE OF THE WORKING CLASS'S ROLE IN LEADING PROGRESS TOWARD A CLASSLESS COMMUNIST SOCIETY. THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES MADE CLEAR THAT IMPORTANT IDEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS YET TO BE RESOLVED HAD BEEN OMITTED PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION. THESE INCLUDED LENINISM, ATTITUDE TOWARD "SOCIALISTIC COUNTRIES", "STRUGGLE AGAINST MONOPOLY CAPITALISM", WOMEN'S LIBERATION AND ECOLOGICAL CONCERNS. DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES REPORTEDLY ALLOWED FOR CONTINUED DOUBLE MEMBERSHIP IN COMPONENT PARTIES AND SV. ON OTHER HAND, CONGRESS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED STATEMENT REAFFIRMING AGREEMENT OF LAST YEAR'S SV CONGRESS, WHICH PROVIDED THAT SV'S COMPONENT PARTIES SHOULD DISSOLVE THEMSELVES BEFORE END OF 1976.

2. NEW PARTY'S NAME IS SOCIALIST LEFT PARTY (SOSIALISTISK VENSTREPARTI). INITIALS THUS REMAIN SVC. BERIT AAS, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE AIK CONSTITUTENT PARTY, WAS ELECTED "FIRST LEADER" OR "FIRST MANAGER" OF SVC, AFTER STALEMATE DEVELOPED BETWEEN SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S PARTY'S (SF) BERGE FURRE AND INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST ROALD HALVORSEN, WHO WAS SUPPORTED BY NKP. HALVORSEN WAS ELECTED ASSISTANT LEADER AND "DAILY LEADER" OR DAY-TO-DAY MANGER, SINCE MRS. AAS WILL CONTINUE IN STORTING (PARLIAMENT). HALVORSEN, WHO WAS VICE CHAIRMAN OF NKP UNTIL 1949, HAS BEEN "DAILY LEADER" OF SV SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED. "FIRST LEADER" POSITION IS NEW.

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3. "DEPUTY LEADER" FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS IS COMMUNIST MARIT LANDSEM BERNTSEN AND "DEPUTY LEADER" FOR ORGANIZATION IS SF'S STEINAR STJERNO. NKP'S RUNE FREDH WAS ELECTED SECRETARY AND INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST MS. AUDUN OLTEDAL, WAS ELECTED EDITOR OF SV'S YET-TO-BE-CREATED NEWSPAPER. ELECTED TO EXECUTIVE BOARD WERE AIK'S ELLEN JACOBSEN AND OLE WIIG, NKP'S KOLBJORN HARBU

AND KARI KROMANN, SF'S BERGIT LAUDAL AND LARS ALLDEN
AND INDEPENDENTS BJORGULF FROYN (LEADER OF OSLO
TRANSIT WORKERS' UNION) AND ERIK OLAUSSEN.

4. SV'S NEW LEADER BERIT AAS WAS BORN IN 1938 IN
FREDRIKSTAD, SOUTHEASTERN NORWAY AND IS UNIVERSITY
PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY BY PROFESSION, WHO
STUDIED AT UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN 1958-59 AND TAUGHT
AT UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI 1967-68. SHE HAS WORKED OR
DONE RESEARCH ON WORK PSYCHOLOGY, TRAFFIC SAFETY AND
CONSUMER PROBLEMS. SHE IS KNOWN AS A BATTLER FOR
WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND ECOLOGY, AS WELL AS AGAINST
NORWEGIAN COMMON MARKET MEMBERSHIP, AND WAS ACTIVE IN
SO-CALLED "WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL PEACE ACTION" ORGANIZA-
TION IN 1960-66. SHE HAS BEEN SV'S DEPUTY
STORTING GROUP LEADER BEHIND FINN GUSTAVSEN. BEGIN
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5. COMMENT: VIGOROUS, COLORFUL, CONTROVERSIAL AND OUT-
SPOKEN MRS. AAS (SAID TO SLEEP OUTSIDE ON HER BALCONY
DURING WINTER) IS PORBABLY MOST BITTER FOE LABOR
PARTY COULD GET AS HEAD OF SV, BUT PERHAPS LESSER OF MANY
EVILS AS FAR AS US INTERESTS CONCERNED. SHE HELPED
LEAD FIGHT AGAINST COMMON MARKET AND HAS ACTIVELY OP-
POSED US VIET NAM POLICY. SHE WAS SUSPENDED FROM LABOR
PARTY DURING LOCAL FACTIONAL DISPUTES RELATED TO COMMON
MARKET ISSUE. SHE HAS NOT BEEN NOTICEABLY OUTSPOKEN
AGAINST NATO (ALTHOUGH SHE PRESUMABLY OPPOSES IT) OR
US AND SHE DOES KNOW US AT FIRST HAND, GREGARIOUS AND
LIVELY, IF ABRASIVE, MRS. AAS HAS NOT EVIDENCED HERSELF
AS ANTI-AMERICAN AS SUCH OTHER SV LEADERS AS NKP'S
LARSEN, SF'S GUSTAVSEN AND FURRE OR THE INDEPENDENT
HALVORSEN. ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE AND HER AIK COLLEAGUES
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HAVE BEEN EAGER FOR COMPROMISE WITHNKP AND HAVE MEDIATED
BETWEEN SF AND NKP.

6. COMMENT: SV'S SUCCESS IN PAPERING OVER DIFFERENCES
AND CONVERTING ITSELF AT LEAST PARTLY INTO A PARTY
WEAS PREDICTABLE (AND PREDICTED IN EFAIR). WHILE
THE PRESENT CONGRESS WILL PROBABLY CHANGE LITTLE, IT MEANS
NK HAS GIANED FOR NOW BY HOLDING ITS POLACE IN THE PARTY.
ADDITIONALLY, SV IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE STRONG AS US'S PRINCIPLE
OPPONENT
AND HEADACHQ IN NORWAY. WITH EVEN LIMITED UNITY SVC
WILL CONTINUE AS A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR NORWAY'S RULING
LABOR PARTY. WHILE SEEDS OF POTENTIAL FRICTION AND
FUTURE SPLIT ARE STILL THERE, SV IS LIKELY TO KEEP ITS
INTERNAL DIVISIONS UNDERCONTROL IN FORESEEABLE

FUTURE.
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